

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 IO-11 /072 W

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R 061553Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2048

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5212

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJ: GDR PRESS CAMPAIGN ACCUSING THE U.S. OF "CLASS JUSTICE"
AND "IMPERIALIST BARBARITY"

1. THE PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE SEEN A MOUNTING CAMPAIGN IN THE GDR
CENTRAL PRESS CENTERED ON PAUL ROBESON'S DEATH AND THE PREMIER
OF A FRENCH TV FILM, "THE ROSENBERGS MUST NOT DIE", BY ALAIN
DECAUX AND SELLIO LORENZI, WHICH HAS BEEN FEATURED ON GDR TV
IN FOUR INSTALLMENTS CONCLUDING ON FEBRUARY 2, 1976. THE CAMPAIGN,
WHICH ACCUSES THE U.S. OF "CLASS JUSTICE" AND "IMPERIALIST BARBARITY",

HAS BEEN PLAYED MOST HEAVILY IN THE CULTURAL SECTIONS OF THE PRESS, BUT

TODAY (FEBRUARY 6), HAS MADE ITS WAY TO THE FRONT PAGE OF THE SED
PARTY ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, UNDER THE HEADLINE: "ROSENBERG SONS:
THE GDR SUPPORTS OUR STRUGGLE"; SUBHEADLINE: "FROM THE CRIME AGAINST
THE
PARENTS STRETCHES A DIRECT LINK WITH THE PRESENT."

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2. THE CAMPAIGN SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A LONG HISTORY OF U.S.
LEGAL TRANSGRESSION FROM THE SACCO AND VANZETTI CASE, THROUGH

THE ROSENBERG CASE AND PERSECUTION OF PAUL ROBESON AND ANGELA DAVIS, ON TO THE SO-CALLED "WILMINGTON TEN", THE LEADER OF WHICH, REVEREND BEN CHAVIS, IS FEATURED IN AN ARTICLE AND IN PICTURES TOGETHER WITH ANGELA DAVIS, IN ND OF FEB 6. THE ARTICLE CONSISTS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH CHAVIS CONDUCTED BY ND CORRESPONDENT, HORST SCHAEFER IN A MOTEL IN WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA BEFORE HIS ARREST AND SENTENCING IN RALEIGH ENTITLED: "IMPRISONED UNTIL THE YEAR 2009". IN THE ARTICLE, CHAVIS IS QUOTED PRAISING THE GDR FOR ITS SUPPORT AND NOTING THAT HE HAS HEARD WHAT A GREAT RACE PREJUDICE FREE PLACE IT IS FROM ANGELA DAVIS AND HIS OWN SISTER, WHO IS STUDING THERE NOW. ON THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL, HE IS QUOTED IN PART STATING: "THE BLACK AMERICANS, THE OTHERMINORITIES, AND THE POOR IN THE USA CAN LOOK ONLY BACK ON TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF OPPRESSION AND RACISM." HE ALSO IS QUOTED THAT HIS THOUGHTS ARE WITH LUIS CORVALAN AND OTHER BRAVE MEN IN CHILE, WHO ARE "IN MUCH GREATER DANGER THAN WE (THE WILMINGTON TEN) ARE."

3. DURING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN, THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY TO FEATURE THE ATTACKS ON U.S. JUSTICE ALONGSIDE A DETAILING OF ALLEGED JUNTA ATROCITIES IN CHILE, PLUS THE LONG-TIME CAMPAIGN CALLING FOR "FREEDOM FOR LUIS CORVALAN."

4. THE BERLINER ZEITUNG OF TODAY FEATURES A NUMBER OF INDIGNANT LETTERS FROM GDR WORKERS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER SUCH LURID HEADINGS AS: "LEGALIZED MURDER IN THE 'LAND OF UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY'".

5. COMMENT: IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE EMBASSY WERE TO BEGIN TO RECEIVE PROTEST LETTERS FROM FACTORIES AND SCHOOLS OF THE TYPE FORWARDED PROTESTING THE "CHILDREN'S AIR LIFT" IN VIET NAM LAST YEAR. IF SO, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE EMBASSY TO RECEIVE VIA WIRELESS FILE OR OTHER CHANNELS, ANY EXPLANATORY MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON "THE WILMINGTON TEN", AS WELL AS THE ROSENBERG CASE. THESE COULD BE USED IN REPLY TO LETTERS OF PROTEST AS WERE MATERIALS ON THE "CHILDRENS' AIR LIFT."
(75-BERLIN 5569).GROVE

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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